



Millbrook Meadow Committee

**Town Hall
Rockport, MA 01966**

Minutes of Meeting Wednesday, February 13, 2013

7:00 p.m. Chairman Samuel Coulbourn called the meeting to order in the Trustees' Room at the Rockport Public Library.

Members present at the Committee meeting are Shannon Mason, John and Barbara Sparks, Ted Tarr, Charmaine Blanchard, Beverly Robbins, Marcia Lombardo and Coulbourn. Nate Sotis was absent.

1. Millbrook Meadow and Mill Pond Restoration Project. . Barbara briefed members on the series of meetings she, John and Sam have attended in past ten days, including Open Space Committee (2/4) Economic Development Committee (2/5), Conservation Commission (2/6), and Planning Board (2/7). Ted, as he is a PB member, was present. All agreed to send letters supporting our application for Community Preservation funds. Members discussed progress in obtaining support for this application.

2. Fundraising. Discussion turned to fund raising, and John noted that a key strategy is to match public monies with donated funds. That is why the initial contribution from the Lura Hall Phillips Trust is so essential. Members discussed fund raising ideas, including creating "affordable packages" like bricks in a walk or a wall, individual trees, etc. Charmaine said it was important to connect with nostalgia, noting several mentions of "skating on the Pond in the old days" on Facebook by Rockporters. She suggested that we ask attendees to the Visioning Session to bring old photos of the Meadow and Mill Pond.

Shannon suggested that more buy-in for our appeals is needed. Charmaine suggested asking a known local celebrity to perform a fund-raising event at the Shalin Liu Performance Center. She and Shannon mentioned setting up a table at Motif Number One Day, Harvest Festival and Easter to publicize the Meadow and Mill Pond and our efforts to restore, and to obtain supporters.

Charmaine offered to look in to fundraising. Barbara asked Beverly to reserve several possible grant opportunities and Beverly agreed to do it.

Members agreed that it would be good to hold a special Fundraising meeting after the Visioning Session. John emphasized the importance of forming a 501.C.3 Organization for fundraising. Barbara proposed we discuss this at our May 15th meeting.

3. Warrant Article for Restoration. Barbara reported on visit with John and Sam to the Finance Committee on Feb. 11, briefing them on our proposed warrant for \$60,000 at Town Meeting. They voted to support our request, subject perhaps to last-minute changes. DPW Director Joseph Parisi accompanied members to the Finance Committee meeting and spoke in support of this measure, which is a joint DPW-MMC request. Members discussed Strategy for taking article to Town Meeting April 6.

4. Visioning meeting Wed. Mar. 20 at 7 p.m. Brenner Room. John provided a draft outline for a public Visioning session, which could range in size from 20 to 80. Shannon and Barbara discussed timeline that Shannon had prepared for assigned tasks. Barbara reported that Gaynelle Weiss, formerly an administrator at Gordon College and a skilled facilitator, has agreed to facilitate our meeting. Ken Knowles, local artist, has agreed to assist in providing rapid sketches of ideas proposed during the meeting, to help attendees visualize ideas that are introduced.

5. Nomenclature. Shannon asked about whether we should use “Mill Brook” or Millbrook”. Members got into a discussion about what to call various parts of the Meadow and Pond, etc. Some have called the Meadow a “park” and Sam recalled how fiercely Lura Phillips had insisted on calling it a “Meadow”. Marcia noted that Millbrook Park is housing for elders. Members agreed that we are stewards of the **Millbrook Meadow and the Mill Pond**, and while “**Millbrook**” as a descriptor is one word, the actual stream, “**Mill Brook**”, is two. If there is interest, we shall discuss this further at our next meeting.

6. Beverly Robbins. Sam welcomed our newest member. Beverly showed members her proposed flyer for the Visioning session. Members proposed minor changes. She will produce copies for local distribution, and a miniature of the flyer will be installed on the MMC Facebook Page. Shannon will install it on the Official Town website. Charmaine has nearly completed a public service announcement for a story on the completion of the new dam for local papers. Sam asked Beverly to take over the task of requesting and reserving rooms and posting meetings and posting the agenda for future meetings on the Town website, and promised to provide her the details.

7.. Future Events. Beverly will request rooms and post the following:

Thursday, Feb. 28th: Rotary. Sam will speak to Rotary about our Restoration Plans and ask their support by attending Visioning Session and Town Meeting.

Wednesday, April 3rd, prepare for Town Meeting, and for Annual Cleanup and Ribbon Cutting 4/20.

Saturday, April 6th. Town Meeting.

Saturday, April 20th: Annual Cleanup in Meadow and Ribbon Cutting for New Dam. Sam will discuss with DPW Director and Town Administrator.

Wednesday, May 15th, MMC Meeting. Discuss Fundraising. Prepare to host table at Motif No. 1 Day

8. New Business. Sam reported that Jane Knight of the Library has requested times in the Meadow for up to 70 children to attend reading events at 3 p.m. on July 10th and 24th, 2013. Sam will coordinate that request with the Selectmen and DPW.

9. Adjournment: At 9:07 p.m. Marcia moved to adjourn, and John seconded. All voted to adjourn with the next meeting set for **Wednesday, March 13th.**

Approved:

Samuel W. Coulbourn,
Chairman

Cc: Town Administrator
Director of Public Works

ROCKPORTERS INVITED!

TO ATTEND A VISIONING SESSION FOR MILLBROOK MEADOW & MILL POND



WHAT: An opportunity to have a say in the planning of the restoration of Millbrook Meadow and Mill Pond

WHY: To discuss solving the problems of:

- Dying trees
- Old playground equipment
- Weed-choked waterways and ponds
- Collapsing retaining walls
- Invasive plants
- Pollution
- Poor drainage

WHERE: Rockport Public Library - Brenner Friends Room

WHEN: Wednesday, March 20, 2013 - 7:00pm

PRESENTED BY THE MILLBROOK MEADOW COMMITTEE

http://www.townofrockport.com/cfm/jobfunction_lv2.cfm?jobfunction=Millbrook%20Meadow%20Committee

<https://www.facebook.com/MillBrookMeadowAndWatershed>
